

REMARKS

Receipt of the office action mailed October 25, 2006, is acknowledged. Claims 1-13 are pending in the application. Claims 2-4 and 8 are objected to for depending from a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claims 1, 5-7 and 9-13 are rejected as obvious over Fink in view of Sarvazyan. In keeping with the foregoing amendments and the following arguments, allowance of all claims is respectfully requested.

The applicant notes with appreciation the indication that claims 2-4 and 8 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. However, the applicant wishes to hold in abeyance rewriting those claims in independent form pending the disposition of the independent claims presently at issue.

Claims 1 and 13 have been clarified slightly to bring the claims into better conformance with U.S. practices by eliminating the “characterized” language.

The rejection of claims 1 and 13 as obvious over Fink in view of Sarvazyan must be withdrawn. Claims 1 and 13 recite, in part, that the array of transducers generate not only an elastic shear wave, but also generate the ultrasound compression wave shots.

By comparison, neither Fink nor Sarvazyan disclose an array of transducers that generate elastic shear waves and that generate ultrasound compression wave shots. Consequently, there can be no *prima facie* case of obviousness based on the cited combination, because the cited combination lacks at least one claim limitation. Further, no suggestion can be found in either reference to make the modification needed to reach the invention of claim 1. Accordingly, claim 1 is in allowable form for at least this reason.

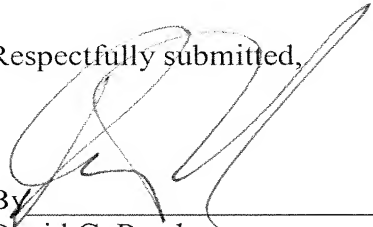
Further, none of the cited references discloses that the focusing and the timing of the focused ultrasound wave, and the timing of the unfocused ultrasound wave, are adapted so that at least some of the unfocused ultrasound waves penetrate to the observation field while the shear wave is propagating in the observation field, for at least some of the unfocused ultrasound wave emissions. Claims 1 and 13 are allowable for this reason as well.

Claims 2-12 depend from claim 1, either directly or through intervening claims. Accordingly, claims 2-12 are also in allowable form.

In view of the above discussion, Applicant submits that each of the presently pending claims is in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

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Respectfully submitted,



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